

REMARKS

Claim 1 has been amended herein to recite the granular animal feed consists essentially of anhydrous potassium carbonate having a hydrogenated fat coating. All other claims have been canceled herein.

It is submitted that both of the cited references *Armand* and *Galler*, have coexisted for at least three (3) years prior to the filing of the present application. The *Armand* reference identifies the existence of the Armand company since 1986 as a source of potassium carbonate and the references have coexisted for 17 years. No one has combined the references to provide granules of potassium carbonate coated with hydrogenated fat during this entire period. The *Galler* reference, which discloses the use of hydrogenated tallow as a coating does not suggest nor disclose use of this coating on anhydrous potassium sulfate as the Examiner recognizes in the Office Action of May 5, 2005. *Galler* is directed to a coating only for menadione bisulfite. The *Armand* reference notes the hygroscopic properties of potassium carbonate and discusses handling and bulk storage of the anhydrous material. However, Armand does not disclose or suggest any type of coating for the anhydrous potassium carbonate.

It is submitted that there is no motivation to combine the references which have coexisted for many years. Persons skilled in the art have not combined the components as claimed by the applicant. The combination, as set forth by the Examiner, is impermissible hindsight which was not obvious to persons skilled in the art.

It appears that all matters have been addressed satisfactorily, and that the case is now in condition for a complete allowance; and the same is respectfully urged.

However, if the Examiner has any comments or questions, or has any suggestions as per MPEP 707.07 (d) and (j), for putting the case in condition for final allowance, he is respectfully urged to contact the undersigned attorney-of-record at the telephone number below, so that an expeditious resolution may be effected and the case passed to issue promptly.

Respectfully submitted,

Date Jan 26, 2006

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CERTIFICATE OF TRANSMITTAL

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the U.S. Postal Service as Express Mail in an envelope addressed to: Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450.

Date: January 26, 2006

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